

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for providing voters with election information
2 specific to voter polling location comprising:
3 querying a voter registration file for a name of a registered voter in
4 response to an input from a user;
5 querying the user for additional information through a series of single
6 criteria iterations each time the query renders more than one result; and
7 granting the user access to a ballot information page if the user is
8 found in the voter registration file, wherein the ballot information page presents the
9 user with relevant information based on the user polling location.

1 2. The method for providing voters with election information
2 specific to voter polling location according to claim 1 wherein the method employs
3 a multiple query system that does not compromise the privacy of any information
4 contained in the voter registration file.

1 3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 retrieving a user polling location in a polling location database; and
3 presenting the user with an option from the ballot information page
4 to see a virtual view of a ballot that the user will encounter when voting on election
5 day.

1 4. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 presenting the user with an option from the ballot information page
3 to view at least one of an electronic voting guide, candidate information, and
4 candidate submissions including biographical information provided by the individual
5 candidates.

1 5. The method according to claim 4 wherein the candidate
2 information is directly updated by administration personnel in each municipality via
3 a secure link over the Internet.

1 6. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 presenting the user with an option to view at least one of an election
3 overview, voting machine data, and a map menu system.

1 7. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 presenting the user with an option to retrieve at least one map from
3 a map database directing the user to a polling place.

1 8. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 presenting the user with an option to view a listing of events retrieved
3 from an election events database.

1 9. The method according to claim 8 wherein the election events
2 database comprises information on at least one of town hall meetings, debates,
3 appearances of candidates, and similar events.

1 10. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 presenting the user with an option to retrieve information on a voting
3 machine that the user will encounter on election day.

1 11. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 presenting the user with an option to view information from a ballot
3 database, the information comprising at least one of hypertext links to candidate
4 submissions, hypertext links to candidate web sites, hypertext links to candidate
5 campaign finance information, and hypertext links to public interest groups.

1 12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the information
2 from the ballot database may include messages in streaming video format.

1 13. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 notifying both registered and non-registered voters of their respective
3 status by email, wherein a hypertext link to a system for providing voter information
4 is provided within the email.

1 14. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 presenting the user with a contact with whom the user should register
3 to vote if the user name cannot be found in the voter registration file.

1 15. The method according to claim 1 wherein a secure sockets
2 layer security system is implemented for data exchange and information is updated
3 by automatic transactional updates in qualified voter file (QVF) format.

1 16. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 offering access to the blind by allowing the user to convert text-to-
3 voice and voice-to-text.

1 17. The method according to claim 1 wherein the ballot
2 information page is generated based on a city and a precinct of the user and a server
3 presenting the ballot information page need not store a unique ballot for every user
4 in the voter registration file.

1 18. The method according to claim 1 wherein the voter
2 registration file is used for a constituent lookup to allow legislators to perform a
3 voter query to know the precinct in which registered voters are assigned.

1 19. A method for providing a user with election information
2 specific to user geographic location comprising:
3 querying the user for a user name;
4 indicating the user is not a registered voter if the user name cannot
5 be found in a voter registration file; and
6 granting the user access to a ballot information page if the user is
7 found in the voter registration file, the ballot information page presenting the user
8 with relevant information based on user polling location ascertained from user
9 residence and precinct.

1 20. The method according to claim 19 further comprising:
2 looking up a user polling location in a polling location database;
3 presenting the user with an option from the ballot information page
4 to see a virtual view of a ballot that the user will encounter when voting on election
5 day;
6 presenting the user with an option from the ballot information page
7 to view electronic voting guide candidate submissions including biographical
8 information provided by the individual candidates; and
9 presenting the user with an option from the ballot information page
10 to view at least one of an election overview, ballot data, a map menu system, and
11 an electronic voter guide.

1 21. The method according to claim 19 further comprising:
2 presenting students with an option to view educational information
3 designed to teach about a political system and a voting process.

1 22. A voter information system comprising:
2 a voter database containing a record of all registered voters in a
3 defined area;
4 a polling place identifier database that classifies the registered voters
5 according to a polling place to which each of the registered voters is assigned;
6 an elected officials database that provides information about currently
7 elected officials;
8 an office database that provides information about each office that
9 may be held by an elected official;
10 an events database that provides information relating to an election
11 calendar;
12 a candidate database that provides information about candidates
13 running for office;
14 a ballot initiatives database that provides information about ballot
15 initiatives; and

16 a map database that provides maps or directions to the registered
17 voters to assist the registered voters in finding the polling places assigned to them,
18 wherein:

19 (i) the registered voter database and the polling place
20 identifier database are accessible on a first secure server via the
21 Internet by voters registered in the registered voter database; and

22 (ii) the elected official database, the office database, the
23 events database, the candidate database, the ballot initiatives
24 database, and the map database are accessible on a second server by
25 anyone via the Internet for providing geographically targeted
26 information to the voters registered in the registered voter database
27 based on their polling place.

1 23. The voter information system according to claim 22 further
2 comprising a secure access link to the registered voter database files and the polling
3 place identifier database files.

1 24. The voter information system according to claim 22 wherein
2 the secure server provides read/write access to authorized users having secure access
3 to the secure server and both the secure server and the second server provide read
4 only access to all other end users.

1 25. A method for providing voters with election information
2 specific to voter polling location comprising:

3 finding a single voter in a voter registration file through a series of
4 single criteria iterations, each iteration asking a user for one additional piece of
5 information about the user while revealing nothing about the voters in the voter
6 registration file being searched; and

7 presenting the user only with public information about the user
8 polling location based on the user polling precinct.

1 26. A voter information system comprising:
2 a first server hosting a registered voter database containing a record
3 of all registered voters in a defined area and a polling place identifier database that
4 classifies the registered voters according to a polling place to which each of the
5 registered voters is assigned;
6 a second server hosting at least one of:
7 (i) an elected officials database that provides information about
8 currently elected officials;
9 (ii) an office database that provides information about each office that
10 may be held by an elected official;
11 (iii) an events database that provides information relating to an
12 election calendar;
13 (iv) a candidate database that provides information about candidates
14 running for office;
15 (v) a ballot initiatives database that provides information about ballot
16 initiatives; and
17 (vi) a map database that provides maps or directions to the registered
18 voters to assist the registered voters in finding the polling places assigned to them;
19 and
20 wherein the first server is a secure server accessible via the Internet
21 and the second server is accessible by anyone via the Internet and provides
22 geographically targeted information to the voters registered in the registered voter
23 database based on their polling place.